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PAMGAVARS LAUD MOSCOW ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

The following are excerpts from an article in the Beirut daily newspaper Zartook /Ramgavar/, discussing the Moscow Economic Conference to be held on ℓ - 10 April 1952.

The objective of the Moscow Economic Conference is to discuss the means for raising the living standards of the peoples of the world through peaceful cooperation and economic exchanges between the different countries. This conference has aroused tremendous in great throughout the world, and prominent people in the field of industry and commerce have agreed to attend it. Indian newspapers report that more than & countries have appointed official representatives to the conference. The only reason for the selection of Moscow as a site of the conference is because the USSs was the first country willing to give entry visas to all the delegates without prejudice against their nationality, political convictions, or past activities

Robert Chambeiron, the French representative on the preparatory committee of the conference, wrote in a paper that the conferenc- will deal only with purely economic matters, and a Swiss economic paper states that the objective of the conference is to stimulate economic exchanges between the West and the East. On the other hand, a Bergian paper says that the almost complete breakdown of the economic relations between the East and the West has been a decisive blow to Western Europe. The New York Times writes that this conference has aroused great interest in the US and referring to the possibility of establishing close economic relations between the East and the West, it points out that the USSR and China could provide the Western industries with excellent markets for many years.

There is no doubt that the main responsibility for the unhealthy conditions in international trade relations rests with the US, which prevents the West European countries from trading with the USSR and the countries friendly to it. The US papers are always writing about economic warfare for the purpose of weakening the USSR through economic isolation. The US has recently

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taken several steps in this direction. It has (1) canceled its trade agreements with the USSR, after many years of cooperation; (2) stopped all economic and financial aid to the countries exporting goods to the USSR and its friends; (3) revised its trade agreements with Czechoslovakia; and (4) canceled trade agreements with Rumania, which had been in force since 1930.

It is obvious that the main purpose of these acts is to destroy all existing economic relations between the East and the West. This economic warfare is absolutely one sided and does not seriously harm the East; however, relations with the East could be extremely valuable to the Western countries which, due to their great industrial development, need markets for their products. On the other hand, the Western countries need the raw materials which abound in the Eastern countries.

Authoritative persons, both in the US and Great Britain, have criticized the US government's economic policy and pointed out that it endangers not only the countries involved but also the present world peace. It is because of this looking forward to the Moscow Economic Conference with sympathy and understanding.

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